

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Iowa for yielding, and I appreciate being in the presence of my former judge, my friend Judge CARTER, and my doctor friend, Dr. BROWN.

Now, I was talking with a group from Baylor University working on their MBA here in Washington, and, of course, the rules are you don't acknowledge people in the gallery, so I won't do that.

But one thing they understand, as sophisticated as the Baylor MBA program is, they understand that if you find yourself in a hole, it's time to stop digging. And the economy is in a hole, and we've been digging. And we're spending so much, we're digging a bigger hole. And we've got manufacturers leaving the country because we're digging ourselves a bigger hole.

And when, as some of us have, you travel to China, Why did you move your industry here? they tell you—the number one answer I got was because the corporate tax is so—it's less than half of what it is in the U.S.—17 percent. And they will cut you a deal. If you bring them a big enough industry, they'll cut some off of that for years. We've got 35 percent, and I believe it's the most insidious tax that there is in this country because we tell the American people that you don't have to pay it. We'll tax these greedy, evil corporations, but you don't have to worry about it. And they don't realize, because the Congress misleads them, that they're the ones that pay it because if they don't, the corporation cannot stay in business.

So here we are with this insidious tax that hurts our corporations trying to compete worldwide, and we're losing jobs. The economy is in the crapper, and we are trying to bring it up. And we're bringing the economy back up, and what happens? Along comes this cap-and-trade idea that is going to further tax businesses that are producing the jobs in America that keep people working and keep people eating and living and surviving. And we're going to add another tax that those in China are not going to pay. And it is hurting the country.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Will the gentleman yield?

I would ask the gentleman from Texas, can you think of some program, a tax or any other program that would more effectively transfer jobs to China, India, and developing countries other than cap-and-tax here in the United States?

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend yielding.

I can't think of one. This will drive so many jobs overseas. It's like somebody is sitting back thinking, How can we further hurt the economy? Let's do that. And some genius came up with cap-and-tax.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time.

I want to pose this question, and this is the question I posed to the judge from Texas and I posed this to the

other judge from Texas and the doctor from Georgia. I pose this to all of my Democrat friends over on this side of the aisle. Can you envision any program that would transfer more jobs from America to the developing countries than cap-and-tax? Is there anything out there that would be worse for our economy? If you have an idea, stand. I will yield to you. I will be very happy to yield this microphone to anybody on this side of the aisle that believes that Judge GOHMERT would happen to be wrong or I happen to be wrong that there is any means that can more cripple America's industry or cost our economy more or transfer more jobs to foreign countries than cap-and-tax that's being debated right now in Energy and Commerce. I say none. You don't ask me to yield. That means you have no better idea.

I will yield to the gentleman from Georgia instead.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. It's a great question.

In my district in Georgia, the 10th Congressional District in Georgia where many counties already have right now, today, right at a 14 percent unemployment rate, I've been told by a number of manufacturers that are still left here in this country that if this cap-and-tax bill goes through, they're shutting the doors. They're moving offshore. They cannot afford to continue to operate in this country. And they're going to do that. It's going to drive up the unemployment rate in my district that's already at 14 percent in many counties.

Mr. KING of Iowa. So the gentleman agrees with my conclusion.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Absolutely. Nothing could be worse except for maybe the budget that has been produced by this administration.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Let me pose a question. What would be, in the history of the United States of America, today, including potentially a cap-and-tax bill that's before the Energy and Commerce Committee today, what would be the most colossal mistake ever made in the history of the United States Congress? In your opinion. And then I want to hear the opinion from the gentleman from Texas as well.

Mr. CARTER. We know the corporate tax drives people offshore looking for a better tax structure. We know right now in just a competitive market we have the Chinese offer cheaper natural gas than the Americans. So if you're powering your plant by natural gas and you're paying that corporate tax structure, just in today's world, there is a lure to go overseas to China.

Now, you come in and you're going to add 30 percent to the cost of everything. Why in the world would you not think it's the absolutely worst thing that could happen? We're probably going to get trampled if we don't get out of the way as they head for the west coast to get on a boat to go to China.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time.

Is there a bigger mistake that has been made in the history of the United States Congress other than handicapping the U.S. economy by applying a cap-and-tax program? Can you think of anything, Judge CARTER, that has happened in the last 200-and-some years?

Mr. CARTER. One of the things that comes to mind is tariffs. Tariffs brought on the Great Depression. I don't know what you're fishing for.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Let me make this statement that Smoot-Hawley didn't put on our economy nearly as much burden as we would have with cap-and-tax. This taxation is the most inefficient taxation ever devised in the history of the United States of America. It applies about \$5 worth of tax for every dollar that ends up in the Federal coffers, and otherwise it has no impact whatsoever. It is a tax. It is an 80 percent overburden for a 20 percent revenue stream. That's how bad cap-and-tax is. And I believe it's the most colossal mistake—if it's done—in the history of the United States Congress.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I absolutely agree with you, Mr. KING. I don't believe there's been a bigger colossal failure to the American people than this proposed cap-and-tax—tax-and-cap, as I call it. It's going to be disastrous for our economy. It's going to be disastrous for everything that we believe in as a Nation.

Right now today, this government is spending too much money, it's taxing too much, as Judge CARTER was talking about. We have the highest corporate tax rate in the world, which is driving companies offshore and it's causing unemployment. We're borrowing too much. We're borrowing our children's and our grandchildren's future. They're going to live at a lower standard of living than we do today with the policies that we've seen just over the last about 120 days already today. And this cap-and-tax policy is going to make it magnified markedly.

We've got to stop the spending. We've got to stop the taxing. We've got to stop the borrowing, and we've got to put America back on track.

And what I want to say before I yield back is that the American people need to understand that the Republicans are the "party of know," k-n-o-w, because we know how to solve all these problems if we'll just be allowed to do so.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time and presuming that we have a couple of minutes left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Two minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the Speaker for that acknowledgment.

We have watched this free enterprise system be subverted, and it's been subverted almost systematically and in a Machiavellian fashion and a fashion so much faster than I ever would have imagined it could have done. I've watched class envy be implemented as